

CAT SYMPTOM RESPONSE GUIDE



MONITOR AT HOME	CONSULT VET	TAKE TO EMERGENCY VET
Single instance of vomit	Multiple instances of vomiting spaced out over several days	Excessive vomiting (repeated vomiting over 1 hour or vomiting blood)
Skips a meal	Lack of appetite lasting more than two meals (one for kittens)	Retching and trying to vomit with no food coming up
Soft stool	Diarrhea, Constipation, blood or worms in feces	
	Excessive or decreased urination	Inability to pass urine, yowling while peeing
Single instance of eliminating outside the litterbox	Cat is repeatedly eliminating outside the litterbox	
Mild URI symptoms: occasional sneezing, clear nasal or eye discharge	Moderate or severe URI symptoms: coughing, sneezing, persistent nasal or eye discharge, congestion	Labored or difficulty breathing
Bleeding from a small cut or wound that can be stopped (e.g. a nail cut too short when trimming nails)		Open wounds, possible broken bones or injury due to trauma or incident such as a fall or being hit by a vehicle
		Bleeding from mouth, nose, or eyes
	Lethargy, depression, listlessness	Severe lethargy or collapse
		Stopped breathing or unconsciousness
	Difficult/unusual movement, lameness	Unable to stand, wobbliness or dragging of limbs, sudden disorientation
	Drinking much more water or less water than normal	Pale color to gums
	Visible parasite (fleas, ticks)	Seizure
	Excessive itching, scratching, and licking of an area. Head shaking.	Ingestion of toxins such as chocolate, poisonous plants, grapes or raisins, xylitol, rat poison
	Rashes, unusual dry skin, hair loss	Extreme pain, displayed by whining or shaking
	Lumps, lesions, swelling	Hard and swollen abdomen, severe abdominal pain